

Agency Information

AGENCY : SSCIA
RECORD NUMBER : 157-10002-10151

RECORD SERIES : INTERVIEW SUMMARY

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 54545 Date:
10-12-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : SSCIA
FROM :
TO :

TITLE : INTERVIEW WITH SAM PAPICH

DATE : 08/22/1975
PAGES : 4

SUBJECTS :

ASSASSINATION
BISSELL
CASTRO
CIA
CUBA
GIANCANA, SAM
HARVEY, WILLIAM
HELMS
KENNDY, ROBERT F.
MAFIA
PAPICH
ROSELLI, JOHNNY

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : Consulted
CURRENT STATUS : Withhold
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/30/1993

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS : Box 256 Folder 4

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Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
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10-12-2017

INTERVIEW AND MEETING SUMMARY

5/26/77
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INTERVIEW WITH: SAM PAPPICH

REGARDING: Assassination Plots

DATE-TIME-LOCATION: August 22, 1975, Mr. Pappich's Home in
Albuquerque, New Mexico

PRESENT: Andrew Postal

HAS OR SHOULD BE DIGESTED: _____

FOLLOW UP REQUIRED: _____

MATERIALS SUBMITTED BY INTERVIEWEE(S): _____

EXECUTIVE SESSION: _____ YES _____ NO

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INTERVIEW WITH SAM PAPPICH

FILE:

Interview with Sam Pappich was conducted by Andrew Postal on Friday, August 22, 1975 at Mr. Pappich's home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Pappich stated that he became the liaison between the FBI and the CIA in 1952. He was part of a liaison section at the Bureau. He worked closely with Mef Khurtz. Khurtz handled relations with the various intelligence subcommittees, and also handled much of the relations with the Office of Security at the CIA.

Pappich stated that he had broad access to Agency personnel. Pappich would file his reports with the espionage section of the domestic intelligence branch of the Bureau. These reports, in turn would be forwarded to the organized crime section of the Bureau when information related to the activities of the underworld. In the Office of Security, Pappich knew and had dealings with Edwards, O'Connell, Bannerman, and Osborn. In a directorate of plans, his contacts included Bissell, Helms, and Harvey.

Pappich stated that he was aware, in general, of the CIA's anti-Castro activities in Miami, but not of specific operations. He knew the chiefs of the Miami operations, but was only interested in the domestic aspects of that operation.

Pappich heard that Attorney General Kennedy had direct communication with the Central Intelligence Agency. He described the Attorney General's involvement in the intelligence community as beginning almost immediately upon the commencement of the Kennedy Administration. He stated that Attorney General Kennedy was involved in, and aware of, the whole range of intelligence activities. He stated that the Attorney General would put pressure on the intelligence community for results. He stated that while the Attorney General's involvement with the intelligence community began prior to the Bay of Pigs, his involvement increased after this operation.

When shown the Bureau's memo of October 18, 1960, Pappich stated that anyone in the Bureau would know the significance of the mention of Giancana. He stated that he would have seen this memo in the normal course of business, but wouldn't swear to having seen it. He stated that he did not discuss this matter with Bissell. He also stated that he doesn't remember discussing this matter with Dulles. He stated that at the time he would have communicated with Edwards or Bannerman in the Office of Security. He further stated that Mr. Belmont would have been his superior in the intelligence division of the FBI.

Pappich stated that when the wiretap was discovered in Las Vegas it really hit the fan. He stated that when the tap was found, the intelligence of the Bureau would have been on top of the situation. He stated that he would have talked to a Mr. Andrews in the organized crime section after discovering the involvement of the underworld in this operation. He stated that Courtney Evans' interest in this operation would have been Giancana's relationship to the wiretap, and not to the CIA's involvement. He stated that Courtney Evans' reports would have reflected this involvement as a potential impediment to prosecution. He did state that when the Bureau learned of the wiretap

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and its relation to the CIA, everyone at the Bureau was really upset. He also stated that the Attorney General didn't want this connection surfaced.

Pappich stated that with respect to the CIA underworld connection, he would monitor agency contact with these people. He would report these contacts to the domestic intelligence section of the Bureau and they in turn would relate this information to Courtney Evans. He stated that he would file a memo of every contact as reported to him by personnel at the CIA. He stated that he was briefed on every meeting with Roselli and the other underworld figures. He stated he was told the nature of the talks. While the Office of Security handled this operation, Edwards was the individual at the CIA who kept Pappich briefed. He stated that at this time he believed there were two or three meetings with the Attorney General about this operation, but doesn't know the specifics, nor was he present at any of these meetings. He stated that his reports would go to the intelligence division, the organized crime section and the Director of the FBI.

Pappich stated that the Bureau first became aware of the CIA's involvement with the underworld at the time the Las Vegas wiretap was discovered. He stated that reports of this connection might have been made orally. He stated that Edwards and Bannerman kept himself and Mef Khurtz informed in a general way. Harvey, formalized the arrangement. He stated that the May 3, 1961 interview with Edwards was probably handled by either himself or Mef Khurtz. Courtney Evans' division would have seen the May 22, 1961 memorandum. As to whether, or what, was told to the Attorney General, Pappich stated he wouldn't have known of any meetings with the Attorney General. The CIA kept the FBI well advised after the tap was discovered.

Pappich stated that the Attorney General would not have gone to the Bureau in order to find the object of this operation. The Attorney General would have found out the nature of the operation by contacting the DCI directly. He found it difficult to believe that McCone would not have known of this operation. However, he never discussed this operation with McCone. He did state that he had ready access to Mr. McCone and that they discussed many subjects. He stated that the Bureau's arrangement with the CIA was worked out prior to the McCone administration. He also stated that the Bureau had no pre-wiretap information on this operation. After the wiretap was discovered, the Bureau was aware of the CIA's involvement, and the Attorney General was kept informed.

When shown the May 22, 1961 memoranda, Pappich stated that this clearly indicated that by this time, at least, the particulars of this operation were known. He stated that when the Bureau became aware of the CIA/Giancana involvement, an informal arrangement was worked out. He stated that Harvey always told him of contacts with the underworld, usually in advance. Information he received concerning Roselli was incorporated in reports he made to the Bureau. Harvey would tell him all of Roselli's movements, and of all associations with Giancana. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the CIA always got authority

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from either the President, the Attorney General, or the Special Group. He further stated, that it was especially important to get the Attorney General's approval. He stated that Mr. Dulles had direct access to President Eisenhower. However, he doesn't know whether Eisenhower was told of this operation. He stated that Robert Kennedy would have known of the nature of this operation from the May 22, 1961 memorandum, or would have found out from the CIA the nature of this operation. He qualified this, however, by stating this is his belief and nothing he knows as a fact. He did state that he got feedback from his people regarding the Attorney General's concern with this operation's potential flap. He found it strange that the Attorney General would be shocked by the news of CIA involvement with the underworld in May of 1962. Courtney Evans would have walked the May 22, 1961 memoranda over to the Attorney General, or had someone in his office deliver it.

With respect to the interview of February 7, 1962, he stated that if he interviewed Edwards, it probably would have been at Courtney Evans' request. He also stated that if he interviewed Edwards, he was absolutely certain that the Attorney General would not have been present. He emphatically stated that neither he, nor to the best of his knowledge anyone at the Bureau, ever knew of any assassination plot. He stated that the nature of this operation wasn't the Bureau's concern, it was a foreign intelligence matter.

Pappich was quite certain that he would have filed a memorandum of every contact with underworld figures as related to him by Harvey. He also was certain he would have done the same with information given him by Edwards. Pappich stated that he told Harvey from the beginning of the stupidity of using underworld figures. He stated that he believed when Harvey took over the contact with the underworld figures, he was only doing so because they were strapped with these people. As far as the FBI was concerned, the damage had already been done with respect to the problems of prosecuting these underworld figures. He stated that the FBI would not have been privy to much of what the Attorney General would have known about this and other foreign intelligence matters.

The agreement between the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI was an understanding that the FBI would be informed by the CIA of any contacts with underworld people, of their movements, and any intelligence which directly or indirectly related to organized crime in the United States. This information would include the movement of these figures, their activities, their travel, and any meetings.

He again stated that everyone in the Bureau was madder than hell about the Agency's involvement with these underworld figures. To the best of his knowledge, he never heard that the Attorney General was mad about this contact. It was his understanding, that the underworld figures were not being used operationally. When shown the references in the May 22, 1961 memoranda to this operation as involving anti-Castro activities and dirty business, Pappich stated he didn't ask what the operationally use of these figures was, or get clearance from above for staying out of this operation. He did state that the Bureau kept

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the Attorney General advised on what it learned of this operation. He stated that the Attorney General was concerned that this operation would become known, and didn't want it to get out. Finally, Mr. Pappich was most concerned that people at the Committee understand what the nature of the times were. He stated that everyone's primary concern were with actions directed against the Soviet Union. That actions directed against Castro's Cuba were an extension of this policy. His primary concern, as a member of the Bureau's domestic intelligence section, was with Soviet operations in this country. He feels it is very important to have an intelligence community in this country, and feels that the Committee's work perhaps is jeopardizing this important resource.